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Published by Sun Media Publishing Inc. • Issue No. 15 Volume 17

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■ REAL ESTATE

Massive project planned for Rice Rd.

VICTORIA GRAY
PelhamNews Staff

A major seniors housing complex to include a medical arts building and retail and food components is poised to rise along a massive expanse of land on Rice Rd. by 2015.

Ponithill Gardens Inc., operating as the Allen Group, plans to put shovels in the ground by next year.

see PROJECT | page 2

Nine-year-old designs T-shirt for fundraiser



SARAH FERGUSON Staff Photo
Sam Reynolds has designed a T-shirt he will sell to help raise funds for the Isaac Riehl Skatepark. Standing next to him are his sisters Emma and Lily. Read the full story on page 3.

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PROJECT

Town preparing for development

FROM PAGE 1

The development is to be built on 20.8 hectares of land that includes 12.8 hectares owned by the Town of Pelham and eight hectares owned by the Allen Group stretching from Regional Rd. 20 to just south of Merritt Rd. Town council accepted the developer's proposal earlier this month.

Baybridge Seniors Housing, a fully owned unit of the Ontario Teachers' Pension plan, will build seniors town-

houses and an adjacent main lodge.

Little Lakes Seniors Community and Health Centre will build a multi-disciplinary health centre integrating services from physicians, nurse practitioners, midwives, radiology and lab services and other health-care professionals in optometry, dentistry, psychology, rehabilitation and social work.

"We are extremely excited to start construction on this

key development within the community," said Allen Group partner David Allen in a news release.

Allen will present details regarding the Baybridge and Little Lakes developments at town council's regularly scheduled meeting next Monday night.

"I think what's being planned is very exciting," Mayor Dave Augustyn said.

"It is really looking at what should be in a community for health care and we're work-

ing with the community to make it happen."

Development plans have yet to be approved by town council.

The group plans to hold public meetings with local health-care professionals in the near future to talk about the medical arts building.

"It's a huge component of our community and we want to make sure we work with the community to make sure it's the best decision for the entire community," Augustyn

said.

Augustyn said as of right now the group's proposal only pertains to the land it already owns, but the town is preparing its lands for development of a recreation facility and are having that land appraised.

The appraisal will tell council how much the land is worth if the group or other retailers wish to purchase places of land.

victoria.gray@sunmedia.ca
Twitter: @VixeyG

PELHAM BRIEFS

GO HERE

Pelham will soon post public washroom directions to help make walking and cycling more appealing in the community.

Public washroom signs will be posted at the municipal building, Harold Black Park, Centennial Park and both libraries.

LIBRARY STILL ON BOOKS

Town councillors last Tuesday night postponed approval of the library needs assessment study's operational review component until their next council meeting on Monday, April 15, in order to give the library board more time to review and give feedback on expanded terms of reference.

ARRESTS IN PELHAM THEFTS

Two arrests have been made following a rash of thefts from cars in the Pelham area.

On March 8, Niagara Regional Police began investigating the string of thefts. As a result, they recovered various stolen items including electronic GPS, cash, various gift cards and other personal items.

Charged with two counts of theft and two counts of possession of property obtained by crime under \$5,000 is 20-year-old Brittany Dube of Welland.

A youth, who cannot be named under provisions of the Youth Criminal Justice Act, is also charged with numerous property-related offences.

REDESIGN: Town of Pelham's website will be revamped by local company

Pelham goes ape over tender proposal

VICTORIA GRAY
PelhamNews Staff

Town council hired a troop of trained monkeys produce its new website.

Council awarded the website proposal to Chimpanzee, an international creative communications agency to "chimp" the town's website for just over \$35,000 at last Tuesday night's council meeting.

There was little discussion from council on the subject, but mayor Dave Augustyn said he was glad the town was going to get a new, more effective website.

"Hopefully we will have a more dynamic presence on the web and it will be easier for people to find what they are

looking for," he said.

Council approved the creation of a new website as part of the 2013 budget and allocated \$30,000 toward the project.

The town received a \$15,000 HRDC grant to help offset costs of the site's creation and allocated just over \$20,000 from the town's IT reserve.

A staff report recommended council approve the proposal despite it running \$5,000 over the allocated funds.

The report said significant savings on the branding proposal award left a balance of more than \$30,000 which could be used to offset the increase.

Chimpanzee will improve the town's online presence, incorporate new branding

strategies, e-commerce capabilities, provide online registration, commercial and town account access, search engine optimization and make the site more user friendly.

Augustyn said although the town has had a website for many years some people have trouble navigating the site.

"Some people still can't find things like, council agendas or

minutes and hopefully this will improve that and many other things," he said.

To make the site easy to navigate Chimpanzee proposed multiple website toolbars including drop down menus at the top of the website with different tools for visitors, businesses, residents, departments and a search function.

A side menu will offer options for lifestyles, doing business, local events. Finding your way, an e-billing option, outdoor parks and a video tour.

It will also feature easy to find blogs, a social media feed and more.

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■ TOWN OF PELHAM: Registration begins next Monday

Summer playground program will keep children occupied

SARAH FERGUSON
PelhamNews Staff

The summer is still a few months away but the Town of Pelham already has the answer for parents when their children ask what can they do.

In addition to the municipality's day-long summer camps, the town is hosting the Summer Playground program which will alternate each week between Pelham Arena Park in Fonthill and Centennial Park in Fenwick.

It's the second time the program has been offered and it's a perfect solution for children who don't require a full day of summer camp, said recreation, culture and wellness co-ordinator Jessica Ruddell.

The summer program will offer two hour-long sessions — one in the morning from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. and in the afternoon from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday to Friday from July 2 to Aug. 30.

Playground leaders, who are trained in standard first aid and are High Five certified, will offer children ages three to 12 a variety of games, songs, crafts, sports and a chance to play on equipment.

"It's perfect because the program allows kids to get out of the house and burn off some energy while it gives mom or dad a chance to do groceries or run errands," Ruddell says about the playground program.

The recreation co-ordinator encourages parents to sign up for the program when registration begins on Monday, April 15.

Each two-hour session has 14 spots, but if there is more interest in the program, Ruddell says more children can be accommodated, which is why it's important to register early.

The program costs \$7 per session or parents can purchase a punch card and receive 10 sessions for \$60.

For more information about the Summer Playground Program call 905-892-2597, ext. 308.

sarah.ferguson@sunmedia.ca
Twitter: s.ferguson25



JORDAN AUBERTIN PelhamNEWS Photo

Emma Hilts, 10, enjoys some time on the monkey bars at the Pelham Arena playground. The Town of Pelham will host a playground camp this summer for children aged three to 12.

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■ RIEHL SKATEPARK

Fundraiser fits to a T

SARAH FERGUSON
PelhamNews Staff

Although he didn't know Isaac Riehl personally, nine-year-old Sam Reynolds wants to do something to help honour his memory.

And he wants to make sure kids have a safe place to skate that is away from motorcists.

During a live *Canada AM* broadcast from E.L. Crossley Secondary School earlier this year, the Active Community Fund awarded \$115,000 toward a Pelham skatepark that is to be named after Isaac, a Grade 9 Crossley student who died last fall after being hit by a car while longboarding on Foss Rd.

Amidst the excitement and celebration, Sam, a Grade 3 student at E.W. Farr Memorial School who attended the event, decided he also wanted to contribute to the skatepark. It wasn't until later that night, following the morning of the *AM Canada* broadcast, that Sam came up with an idea.

He decided he would draw a design for a T-shirt and sell it to raise money for the skate facility, which is to be built at Harold Black Park.

With help from one of Isaac's best friends, Reese Ashbee, and after a lot of drawing and erasing, Sam came up with what he considers the perfect design.

The shirt has several skateboards drawn in a circular pattern — each skateboard has a special symbol such as a Canadian flag and the word Pelham.

"Everything on the shirt is meant to represent Isaac," Sam says.

After getting support from the Town of Pelham, Sam will have the shirts on sale at Pelham Summerfest. He also plans to visit local schools.

Shirts can also be purchased at www.theheelskatepark.com. For more information about the shirts, send an e-mail to info@theheelskatepark.com.

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Isaac Riehl

Pelham NEWS

Published by PelhamNEWS

Sun Media Corp.

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John Tobon

PUBLISHED AND GENERAL MANAGER, PRINT & DIGITAL

Sarah Ferguson, reporter

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Time for Grits to turn tables on Tories

The news that the Conservatives are planning attack ads against Justin Trudeau isn't news. It's what Stephen Harper's party does, and they do it well. If the Harper Conservatives are to be remembered for anything, it will be their brutal efficiency in dispatching Liberal opponents. In 2006, 2008 and 2011, the Conservatives haven't won as much as they have beaten Liberals. It's a critical distinction.

While each of the Conservatives' anti-Liberal ad campaigns are qualitatively different in some way, there is a thread that runs through all of them. It is the notion that Harper is the Tim Hortons-loving hockey dad, the everyman. While his Liberal adversaries are out-of-touch elitists (and quite literally, in one case) alens.

Paul Martin? Conservative campaign advertising suggested Martin, a multi-millionaire who owned ships flying Liberian flags, was indifferent to serial scandals, and – most critically – wasn't at all “like them.”

Stephane Dion? Martin's successor was a weakling and “not worth the risk.” (The fact he possessed French citizenship, and an inability to speak English well, was an unexpected bonus.)

Michael Ignatieff? A geeky foreigner. The Conservative heritage reminded viewers that Ignatieff, like Dion, was a poorly-headed academic – and that he had spent decades abroad and was “just visiting” Canada.

Past political behaviour is the best predictor of future political behaviour. If it worked once, it could work again. So we can reasonably expect the forthcoming anti-Trudeau smears will focus on his other worldliness: His privileged background, his perceived elitism, his unfamiliarity with the everyday lives of everyday Canadians. The “not like you” theme is as simple as it is effective. Thus, Conservatives have been busily scrutinizing focus group data for months, zeroing in on one or two things about Justin Trudeau's personality that can be exaggerated into gaping fatal flaws.

But two can play that game. If the Trudeau Liberals are smart – and if they figure out how to get Trudeau to rescind his recent foolish “no negative ads” pledge they will quickly familiarize themselves with the Conservative advertising playbook.

Developing a campaign that suggests Harper isn't an anti-Canada regular guy is a waste of time. After nearly a decade, Harper's persona is familiar to millions of Canadians. They feel he is the leader most likely to understand their lives.

But that doesn't mean they like him, however.

see EDITORIAL | page 5

comment

■ COLUMN

Reviewing Pelham's property taxes



DAVE AUGUSTYN

MAYORAL VIEW

At our March 21 regional council meeting, we approved the 2013 Property Tax Rates and Tax Ratios.

These rates and ratios apply to all property tax classes across the Region, including in Pelham.

What does this mean for

Reassessment Year: As I wrote about last November, this is a reassessment year. That means that MPAC – the provincial body called the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation – has re-evaluated and assessed all properties in the province as of Jan. 1, 2012. We will use that new assessment value for your property when we calculate your property taxes.

Property Tax Calculation: The amount of property tax you pay to the Town of Pelham, to the region, and to the province (for education) is not only based on the market value

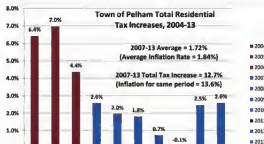
assessment of your property; we multiply your assessment by each of the tax rates.

Despite your tax rate being set by each entity for their services, the town collects the taxes and distributes it appropriately.

2007 to 2013: In February, I wrote that “...the net effect on the tax levy will be \$265,955 or an increase of 2.92% on the Town of Pelham portion of your 2013 property tax bill.”

From following the budget processes from other Niagara Towns and Cities, we anticipate that Pelham's increase will again be the second lowest this year.

But, what about over a



longer period of time?

Let's compare this term of council so far with the last term of Council, and with inflation.

The average increase of property taxes on your combined property tax bill for the last three years was 1.7%; for the previous four years – from 2007 to 2010 – it was 1.8%. If you blend the entire seven years, the average is 1.72%

and the total increase in your property taxes was 12.7% for that seven year period (from 2007 to 2013).

How do we measure whether that is “good” or not?

One important comparator would be inflation. Inflation for that same entire seven-year period was 13.6% or an average of 1.84% per year.

see TAXES | page 5

■ COLUMN

Examining convalescent care in Niagara

When the Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) was formed, there was considerable concern that the needs of Niagara's residents would be lost in the large geographical territory of the LHIN.

That territory includes Niagara, Hamilton, Halton and Brant. However, as time has passed, it is clear that the strength of Niagara's leadership has ensured that the needs of our residents are made clear and several funding initiatives have resulted in improved opportunities for care in Niagara. The most recent funding announcement is the approval for an application to provide a 20-bed convalescent care service at Linhaven Long-Term care facility in



BRIAN BATY

REGIONAL COUNCIL VIEW

St. Catharines.

Starting in April, as space becomes available, 20 long-term care beds will be converted to convalescent care beds. It has long been known that the lack of alternate levels of care has resulted in many patients staying longer in hospital beds at a much higher cost. Another impact of this backlog is that there are often offroad delays from ambulances as no beds are available for the incoming patients. Also, in

many cases, after a long delay, the patients are admitted to a long term care home when they really would prefer to return to their home.

As the conversion takes place, the LHIN has provided funding for 20 new hospital beds. In addition, they have included funding for 6.3 full-time equivalent staff to provide round the clock care for the patients who are to be served. Given the fact that most patients require only a few weeks of care, it is expected that this service will affect 80 to 100 patients over the course of a year.

Many citizens do not recognize the distinction between the Niagara Health System and the programs provided by the Region of Niagara. We provide the Public

Health services to citizens which are mainly health prevention measures as well as Community Services such as Long-Term Care and Day Programs for seniors. This new convalescent care facility at Linhaven will be available to all citizens of Niagara and serves as a demonstration project between the regional services and the Niagara Health Care system services. As our population ages it is expected that we will see an increase in the number of programs that will allow seniors to remain in their homes for longer periods of time.

Brian Baty is a Niagara Regional Councilor for the Town of Pelham and the Co-Chair of the Public Health & Social Services Committee.

■ TAXES

Staff look to maintain quality of services

FROM PAGE 4

I hope you too are pleased that our tax increases have been nearly a full percentage point below inflation for that period. Please see the chart for more information.

Pelham Council continues to direct staff to ensure that we ensure minimal

impact on you and other property taxpayers without decreasing the current level and quality of services.

You may contact Mayor Dave Augustyn at mayordave@pelham.ca or read past columns at www.pelhammayordave.blogspot.com.

■ EDITORIAL

Conservative attack ads on way

FROM PAGE 4

Polls reveal vulnerabilities in the Conservative leader's populist armour. A recent Angus Reid poll, for instance, found nearly 70% of all Canadians still feel he has a hidden agenda. An earlier Angus Reid poll found that almost a third of Canadians feel he has been the worst prime minister in decades, and fully half of them "dislike" Harper.

An Ipsos poll at the start of the year found that, outside Alberta, most Canadians do not feel a kinship with Harper's values. Indeed, the same poll found about 60% of them don't

even want him to run again in 2015. To offset the coming anti-Trudeau torrent, then, the Liberals need to put together ads that turn the tables on Harper. He, in fact, is the one who is "just visiting" — he's angry, he's aloof and his values are un-Canadian. And, however much he runs the country, he still does not seem to like the country. The Conservative attack ads are coming. Will Justin Trudeau turn the other cheek, or respond in kind?

If they are to have any hope at all, Liberals should pray it's the latter.

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■ **ENVIRONMENT:** TD Canada Trust is leading the way

Local businesses challenged to clean up the community

JORDAN AUBERTIN
For PelhamNews

Pelham businesses will help beautify the town.

TD Canada Trust is leading the way on this year's Corporate Challenge Day.



**It's our responsibility as local
business owner to clean up our
area and help clean up the town."**

Joe Giacomelli

The event will take place on April 18 and is part of the nation-wide Communities in Bloom campaign. The campaign is meant for businesses in the community to spend a day cleaning and working on the landscape around their

businesses.

Joe Giacomelli, branch manager of TD Canada Trust, said the staff at the bank will be out cleaning to help beautify Pelham between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m.

"We're going to be challenging other local business owners to get their staff and themselves involved," he said.

TD will be working on an area around the branch, said Giacomelli, and is challenging other businesses in the downtown Pelham area to work around theirs.

The city of Pelham asked the bank to champion the event, said Giacomelli.

"We present the challenge to the other local business owners to get involved. It's our responsibility as local business owner to clean up our area and help clean up the town," said Giacomelli adding, "this is a great way to give back to the community."

Local businesses can get involved in Corporate Challenge day by calling Sally Jaegers at 905-892-2607 ext. 347.

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ONGOING EVENTS & PROGRAMS

"ZUMBA FITNESS" – Pelham Arena
Tuesday Apr 16th 7:30pm – 8:30pm

"ZUMBA GOLD" – Pelham Arena
Tuesday Apr 16th 9:30am – 10:30am
Thursday Apr 18th 9:30am – 10:30am

Drop in and try any session for \$6.00 or purchase your 10 + 2 bonus pass for \$60.00

Need more info – contact Julie Cook (905) 892-2607, ext. 329

"ZUMBATOMIC"

Turn up the music, wiggle, shake and have a blast with your friends in these rockin', high-energy fitness-parties packed with specially choreographed kid-friendly routines.

Tuesday's – Pelham Arena- 1120 Hallet Street, Fonthill
(4-7 yrs) 5:30 – 6:00pm
(8+ yrs) 6:00 – 6:30pm

Thursday's Old Pelham Town Hall - 46 Carboro Rd. Ridgewill
(4-7 yrs) 5:30-6:00pm
(8+ yrs) 6:00-6:30pm

Cost \$40 for a 10 class pass + 2 bonus classes.
OR \$4.50 drop in class

Purchase your passes at Town Hall - 20 Pelham Town Square Fonthill, ON.

Walking Club

Interested in joining a Pelham? Interested in joining a Walking Club? Join us!

Tuesday Apr 16th
Pelham Arena
9am-10am

Thursday Apr 18th
Fonthill Bandshell
9am – 10:30am

Everyone welcome! For more information please contact
(905) 892-2607 ext 341

UPCOMING EVENTS & PROGRAMS

Help Keep Pelham Beautiful – Community Clean Up – April 18, 19 & 20

Corporate Challenge Day – April 18; Student Participation Day – April 19;
Community Clean Up Day – April 20 – 9am – 1pm – Centennial Park, 999
Church Street, Fenwick. BBQ lunch provided by the Fenwick Fenwick Lions.

The Town will provide garbage bags, gloves and safety vests.

Call 905 892-2607, ext 347 or email sjaeger@pelham.ca to register or for more information.

Ready Set Cycle!

Registration forms now available on our website! Bike Niagara and the T.O.P. will teach you how to get back into cycling, ride with greater confidence and practice safe sharing of the road. Call 905-892-2607, ext. 308 for more information.

Fenwick's 160th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, June 1, 2013 10am-11pm

Enjoy a summer's day filled with heritage, activities, music and buskers

– all for free. A 'heritage' focus will accompany the celebrations and all in attendance will be able to walk freely on the closed streets. Participant application and sponsorship forms are available on-line at www.pelham.ca. Decorations (wreaths & bower) are still available for purchase on a first come, first served basis.

Summerfest 2013

Thursday, July 18 – Sunday, July 21, 2013

It's never too early to start thinking about Pelham's summer fun festival! Check out the updates at www.pelhamsummerfest.ca. Art show, vendor and sponsorship applications are now available on-line.

GENERAL INFORMATION**"Town of Pelham - RESERVE CROSSING GUARDS"**

There is an immediate need for reserve school crosswalk guards to relieve the regular guards during periods of illness and vacation. The position has an hourly pay rate of \$12.98 per hour. Persons interested in becoming a reserve school crosswalk guard can pick up an application form in the Recreation, Culture & Wellness Department (20 Pelham Town Square).

Removal of Snow and Ice From Sidewalks

Please be reminded By-law No. 3154 (2011) requires that, after the effective date of any winter precipitation event, the owner or occupant of every occupied building and the owner of every unoccupied building and the owner of every parcel of vacant land, shall clear away and remove, or cause to be cleared away and removed, snow and ice from the sidewalk to a clear condition within twenty-four (24) hours. Please take steps to ensure that you are in compliance with the by-law.

Interested in joining the Communities in Bloom Committee?

The Communities in Bloom Committee is a Town Committee dedicated to keeping Pelham beautiful. The Committee is responsible for planning events such as Pelham's Annual Garden Tour and Community Participation Day's in the Fall and Spring.

To become part of this committee or for further information please contact the Recreation, Culture & Wellness Coordinator (905) 892-2607 ext 341.

Is your business interested in being listed in the Town of Pelham Recreation, Culture & Wellness Guide?

If so, please be sure to fill out a business directory information card with the Town of Pelham. For an information card, please visit Town Hall, 20 Pelham Town Square – 1st Floor, or contact 905-892-2607, Ext. 315

Interested in renting the Anne Hall or the Old Pelham Town Hall?

Call the Town of Pelham at 905-892-2607, Ext. 329

IMPORTANT TO DOG OWNERS

Please be reminded that the Town of Pelham Dog Control By-law 97-2010 requires that any person who owns controls or harbors a dog shall remove, forthwith, any feces (excrement) left by such dog on private or public property. Remember to be responsible! Snop and Scoop!

ONTARIO ONE CALL 1-800-400-2255

All requests for waterline and sewer locates must be directed to Ontario One Call

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The hydro utility requires that a pole number be provided when reporting the problem

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Fonthill, ON L5S 1E0
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<http://www.pelhamlibrary.on.ca>
<http://www.pelhamlibrary.blogspot.com>

Clothing Sale

Mon. April 8th - Sat. April 13th
All styles and sizes of clothing for men, women and children being accepted.

Managing Hip or Knee Joint Pain

For individuals with arthritis of hip and knee joints, strategies will be discussed on how to manage pain and mobility issues. We will discuss a program that helps with assessment and with navigating the health care system. Free. Register ahead. April 18 at 2 p.m. Pelham Public Library.

Giller Prize Winner Elizabeth Hay

Scottaback Prize Winner for Late Nights on Air, Giller Finalist for A Student of Weather, Governor General's Award Finalist for Garbo Laughs and A Student of Weather, Finalist for Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize for both A Student of Weather and Small Change, Elizabeth is the recipient of the prestigious Marian Engel Award. In 2012 a plaque was unveiled in Fonthill for Garbo Laughs as part of Project Bookable Canada. Wed., Apr. 17 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$10. Please purchase ahead. We acknowledge the support of the Canada Council for the Arts, which last year invested \$156 million to bring the arts to Canadians throughout the country. Pelham Public Library.

Around the World in a Tea Cup

Discover exotic teas from around the world. Pamela Cucci of Gwen's Teas, St. Catharines, gives us a flavourful tour from a few of her wares of 200 teas. Come on in, the kettle's on! Sun, Apr. 21 at 2:00. \$4.00. Register ahead. Pelham Public Library.

Ongoing**Knit Wits - Knitting Club**

Work on your project while spending time with other knitters. All levels are welcome. Crocheters welcome. Knitting tips will be shared at each session. Fridays from 1-3. Begins Jan. 4. \$2.00 includes refreshments. Drop in.

Drop-in Bridge

Alternate Wednesdays. 1:00-3:00 p.m. Come alone or with a friend. Refreshments. Monthly schedule available at front desk. Pelham Public Library.

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Monthly Hearing Clinic

Connect Hearing will be at the Fonthill Branch giving free hearing screenings. They will be able to answer any questions about various hearing issues. Free but please schedule your appointment at: 905-892-8058. Apr. 22. 10:00am - 1:00pm

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■ LANDFILL: Reusable Goods Drop-off centre opens

Cutting down waste

SHANE LEONARD
 For PelhamNews

WELLAND — It's your one stop drop.

Niagara Region and its partner, Goodwill, opened the doors to a new Reusable Goods Drop-off centre.

"The goal is to keep gently-used items, which still have use, out of landfills and into the hands of people who need them."

"This is a great day for Niagara Region," said Regional Chair Gary Burroughs. "This was a team effort that will reduce need for the landfill," he added.

Once sorted, items will go to Goodwill's Churchill Ave.



JORDAN AUBERTIN Tribune Photo

From left: Marc Desjardins and Pete Babion, donation attendants at Welland's new Goodwill drop off station, stand next to Benji the Blue Box.

location in Welland, said Jordan Hill, regional director for Goodwill.

"Donations will primarily stay here in Welland," she said.

The location will create a few jobs with opportunities to support and develop more at retail centres, said Saulis Zemaitis, CEO of

Niagara Region Goodwill.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to see the region reach out," said David Eke, chair of Goodwill Niagara and Lord Mayor of Niagara Region at the Lake. "Residents can see and believe in it."

In keeping with the spirit of the program, the

drop off building itself was recycled. It was built from an old scalehouse building which was located at the landfill site. The cost of the complete centre was about \$25,000.

Everyone knows about recycling, said Catherine Haberniehl, associate director of collection and diversion operations, "but there are other R's. We want to focus on reusing and reducing."

The centre will accept a wide variety of goods such as clothing, household wares, furniture, working appliances (both large and small), toys, artwork, and musical instruments amongst many other items.

The drop off centre is located at 700 Humberstone Rd., Welland just outside of the landfill. It will be open Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information visit www.niagararegion.ca/waste

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This free event is part of a province-wide discussion series featuring researchers from Ontario's universities.

>>> Register and learn more about Ontario university research at
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■ **AGRICULTURE:** Making soup for those in need

Good use for odd produce

SARAH FERGUSON
PelhamNews Staff

Ever wonder what happens to produce that's a little undersized or misshapen?

Fonthill Lions Club member Robert Yungblut says the public is invited to learn about what happens to produce that doesn't make it to the grocery store during the Fonthill Lions Agriculture Night on Tuesday, April 16.

Representatives from The Ontario Gleaners, a volunteer organization, have been invited to speak at the service club's agriculture night about how it uses donated vegetables to make dehydrated soup for the poor in developing countries.

Yungblut says many of the vegetables that are "usable" but aren't able to be sold in stores because they are small in size are donated by local farmers for preparation.

The Ontario Gleaners use about 13,500 kilograms of produce each week to make soup.

For individuals interested in learning more about what the Ontario Gleaners do, the agriculture night begins a symposium at 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 7 p.m. at the Fonthill Legion on Hwy. 20. Tickets are \$20 each and everyone is welcome to attend.

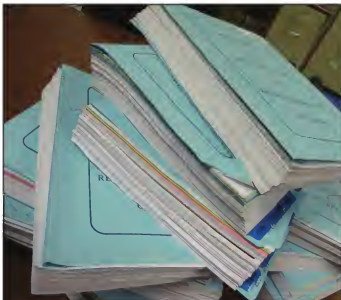
For tickets call Yungblut at 905-892-2005 or Fred Arbour at 905-892-2616.

sarah.ferguson@sunmedia.ca
Twitter: [s.ferguson25](#)



SARAH FERGUSON Staff Photo
Lions Club member Robert Yungblut invites the public to the organizations annual agricultural night featuring guest speakers from the Ontario Gleaners, a volunteer driven organization that makes dehydrated soups for people in need in places such as Eastern Europe.

REGIONAL COUNCIL



A stack of Niagara regional council blue books is seen in this QMI Agency Niagara file photo.

Region could save forest by slashing books

JEFF BOLICHOWSKI
QMI Agency Niagara

THOROLD — Regional council could save a small forest every year by cutting the paper out of their meetings.

By not printing their document books and agenda packages, councillors could spare 111 trees and 922,500 sheets of paper, a report heading to council's planning committee last Wednesday says. Regional administration figures shunning paper could spare council the other kind of green: They'd save over \$53,000 annually.

"That's shocking," Niagara Falls Coun. Selina Volpatti said. "A 111 trees? Come on."

The report came after she asked staff to explore the savings that could come with going paperless. That would require councillors to get all their documents electronically.

Volpatti said she's been getting council documents and minutes, referred to simply as blue books for their duck egg-blue covers, delivered like the rest of council, but she sticks with her laptop.

"I don't use my blue book. Maybe there are people who still use the blue book," she said.

Not printing them, she said, "would save all those trees. I think that's more important than those \$53,000."

There's something to be said for the blue books, St. Catharines Coun. Alan Caslin said. He said they're convenient

when councillors want to read their documents on a bus or in a car.

Getting them digitally is a little more involved because accessing the server they're stored on requires an Internet connection, he said.

But he said he's been using a laptop since before the new millennium and figured he could get behind a paperless model.

"It makes sense," he said. "I belong to other boards. They're either paperless or print-your-own."

The number of trees involved "does take one a back a bit," Port Colborne Coun. David Barrick said. But he said it also suggests other departments could start looking at where to start going digital, figuring council could be a "test case" for reducing the Region's carbon footprint.

He said front-line staff would know better than council what documents don't need to be printed these days.

For his part, he said he keeps what's necessary from his blue books and recycles the rest.

"It's a really low piece of hanging fruit for us to move forward with," Barrick said of going paperless.

"It doesn't cost us anything. It saves us money, so that should entice those who want to save money."

"There's really no negatives to going this way."

jeff.bolichowski@sunmedia.ca
Twitter: @JeffB_Standard

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**TUESDAY
APRIL 16**
SPRING SOUP & SANDWICH
luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Central United Church, corner of King and Young Sts., Welland. Tickets are \$10 a person and available by calling 905-735-2333. Reservations available.

**WEDNESDAY
APRIL 17**
PAIN MANAGEMENT
For individuals with arthritis of hip and knee joints, strategies will be discussed on how to manage pain and mobility issues. We will host a discussion a program that helps with assessment and with navigating the health care system. 2 p.m. Free. Register ahead at Pelham Public Library.

ANNUAL MEETING
Hosted by the Welland and District Unit of the Canadian Federation of University Women to be held at Plymouth Cordage Retirement Residence, 110 First Ave. Welland, this month's speaker is Chelsea Cook, entrepreneur from Designer Delights Cupcakes. 7:30 p.m. All women welcome.

**TUESDAY
APRIL 16**
AUTHOR SPEAKS
Scotiabank Grill Prize Winner Elizabeth Hay will speak at Pelham Public Library. Elizabeth is the recipient of the prestigious Marian Engel Award. 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$10. Please purchase ahead.

**SATURDAY
APRIL 20**
PASTA NIGHT
The last pasta dinner hosted by Fonthill Lions until October. Fonthill Lions Hall on Hwy. 20 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Cost is \$10 per person, or \$6 for children under 12. Take out orders available.

**MONDAY
APRIL 22**
PELHAM HORTICULTURAL
Society meeting at Fonthill library at 7:30 p.m. Learn about Whistling Gardens, Canada's newest Botanical Garden, in Wilsonville, south of Brantford. Opened last May, it has the largest public collection of conifers in the world.

**FRIDAY
APRIL 26**
SCRABBLE FOR LITERACY
Niagara Regional Literacy Council will be holding its 8th annual Scrabble fundraising tournament at the Parkway Convention Centre in St. Catharines. There will be a cash bar, hot/cold buffet, penny table, silent auction,

50/50 draw and door prizes. Tickets are \$35 each or \$210 for a team of 6. Call 905-687-8299 to reserve your table.

**SUNDAY
APRIL 21**
EXOTIC TEAS
Discover teas from around the world. Pamela Cucci of Gwen's Teas, St. Catharines, gives a flavourful tour from a few of her wall of 200 teas. Pelham Public Library at 2:00. \$4. Register ahead.

**SATURDAY
APRIL 27**
PROGRESSIVE EUCHRE
Hosted by the Fonthill Lioness at the Fonthill Lions Hall, Hwy. 20. 7 p.m. Prizes, light lunch and cash bar. \$5 per person.

**SUNDAY
APRIL 28**
FASHION SHOW
See all the latest fashions for spring and summer, check out the Spring Fashion Fling at the Brebeuf Hall on Killybeg Street E. in Port Colborne. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. with a luncheon being served at 1 p.m. All proceeds will assist the Last Chance Horse and Pony Rescue to save the lives of abused equines. For more information or to purchase a ticket for \$25 which includes lunch, call Sue at 905-834-7988.

**TUESDAY
APRIL 30**
ICONIC SITES
"Screech-In," historic Titanic graveyard, iconic "Cheers" restaurant, and the Plymouth Rock. See and hear about the sites from Earl Clint of Verstraete Travel. 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Free. Pelham Public Library.

**MONDAY
MAY 6**
NIAGARA BEEKEEPERS ASSOC.
Meet at the Niagara Regional Police Service community room, 5 Lincoln St., Welland, starts at 7 p.m.

**MONDAY
JUNE 3**
NIAGARA BEEKEEPERS ASSOC.
Meet at the Niagara Regional Police Service community room, 5 Lincoln St., Welland, starts at 7 p.m.

**MONDAY
JULY 8**
NIAGARA BEEKEEPERS ASSOC.
Meet at the Niagara Regional Police Service community room, 5 Lincoln St., Welland, starts at 7 p.m.

**MONDAY
AUGUST 5**
NIAGARA BEEKEEPERS ASSOC.

Meet at the Niagara Regional Police Service community room, 5 Lincoln St., Welland, starts at 7 p.m.

ONGOING LISTINGS
CALLING ALL FINE ARTISTS
Second annual Art in the Park, juried fine art show, Pelham Peace Park, Fonthill, July 18 to 21. Application forms at www.patriciahafar.com and at www.pelhamsummerfest.com.

VENDORS WANTED
The Guild Hall Makers' Market, 72 Charlotte St., Port Colborne, is held every Friday 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. To inquire, call Mary at 905-835-0394 or the church office at 905-834-3184.

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hearing issues. Free but please schedule your appointment ahead at 905-892-6068. Monday April 22 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Pelham Public Library.

DROP-IN CRIBBAGE
Every Wednesday from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion branch 613, Fonthill. Draw for partners. No charge, everyone welcome.

If you have a story idea or see news happening, we want to hear from you!

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DECLARES A 20% REFUND ON 2012 PREMIUMS PAID



President Domenic Ioannoni (left) receives refund cheque from Past-President Phillip Lambert (right) at Bertie and Clinton's head office.

Bertie and Clinton is a local Mutual Insurance Company that specializes in providing farm insurance to its owning members. By insuring with the company, you can also become a part owner and have a voice in how the company is run. Recently, the company declared a refund from surplus of 20% on property, liability and automobile premiums paid in 2012. Approximately \$2,320,000.00 was refunded to the policyholders provided they had been insured for at least one year and their policy was in force at December 31, 2012. Bertie and Clinton has declared a refund from surplus in seventeen of the last twenty-two years and has provided insurance for Niagara Peninsula residents since 1880.

The company is run by nine directors who are elected by the policyholders at the annual meeting. Each of the nine directors are elected for a three year term, with three being elected each year. At the annual meeting held March 26, 2013 Howard Augustine of Wainfleet, Larry Hipple of Beamsville and Domenic Ioannoni of Niagara Falls were elected for three year terms. Domenic Ioannoni of Niagara Falls will serve the company as President for 2013-2014 and Lubert Doornekamp of Fort Erie was elected as Vice-President. Racheal Siciliano of Welland is the Secretary-Manager.

Bertie and Clinton Mutual has agents throughout the Niagara Peninsula. If you own a farm in the Niagara Peninsula or for any other general insurance needs please contact us at

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BOXING



JOE CSEH PelhamNews Photo

Fonhill's Andy Tober, left in photo at right, fights Antonio Dimitrovski in a men's 190-pound feature Friday in Welland.

Fonhill fighter wins ring debut

Don't tell Antonio Dimitrovski that Andy Tober was making his ring debut in Friday night's Napper's Box Club show in Welland.

Landing blows like a veteran while avoiding Dimitrovski's counter punches with some deft footwork, the 23-year-old from Fonhill earned a unanimous decision in the 190-pound fight, one of the featured bouts in a show held at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch.

Tober was one of four fighters from the Welland club scoring unanimous decisions in the club's first local show

since December 2011.

Fonhill's Star Jackman, also 23, knocked down Max Rzezi for a first-round eight count in the 187-pound division, while 18-year-old Brandon Dilts of Welland got the better of Abdullah Carriere in their senior men's 200-pound battle.

Sierra Picton, the Napper's boxer with the most ring experience, defeated Lisette Gonzalez in the women's 112-pound class. The co-main event was the 23-year-old from Fonhill's 29th career fight.

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The novice Tim Hortons Red Blades recently won the Niagara District Local League B division championship over Dunnville, pictured from left to right, back row, coaches Brian Zanuttini, John Guitard, Chad Free, middle row, Andrew Guitard, Claire Leavens, Alex Sawchuk, Max Sherry, Lochlan Ridley, Nevan Roudoux, Noah Dams, front row, Jessica Zanuttini, Samantha Carmichael, Jacob Free, Edward Litalien, Gordon Arbour, Cale Owen and Daniel Guitard.

SARAH FERGUSON Staff Photo



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